



State Representative Mike Alberts

Dear Friends,

Our legislative session ended on May 3. I'm pleased to report to you that unlike last year we made some significant budget strides that I'm proud to have supported.

We responsibly funded our teachers' pension account with nearly \$246 million. While we are still far short of meeting our moral and financial responsibility to fund a \$5 billion deficit, it's a strong step in the right direction. We set aside \$189 million to better fund our rainy day account, so we shouldn't have to raise taxes during the next economic downturn. We retired nearly \$86 million of state debt and returned more than \$33 million to our communities in the form of a one-time revenue sharing credit and \$10 million to better fund spiraling special education costs. Perhaps, most importantly, we didn't rely on any budget gimmicks that would result in tighter budgets in the future.

It remains my pleasure to serve you. If I can be of assistance to you during the summer, please don't hesitate to call me at home at 974-3663 or in Hartford at 1-800-842-1423.

Very truly yours,



In Woodstock, Rep. Michael Alberts presents a proclamation declaring "Rogers Corporation Day" in recognition of the company's safety. Accepting is Gary St. Jean, environmental, health and safety engineer.

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State Representative MIKE ALBERTS Proudly Serving the 50th District

Brooklyn ★ Eastford ★ Hampton ★ Pomfret ★ Woodstock

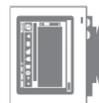


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2006 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



State Representative MIKE ALBERTS Proudly Serving the 50th District

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Rep. Mike Alberts speaks on floor of the House Chamber during a legislative debate.

PROTECTING YOUR INTERESTS

As in past years, I am working hard for taxpayers, children, families and senior citizens. I am happy to report that the legislature agreed to several initiatives to hold down spending, protect the environment, help save for college education, improve transportation and stimulate job growth. If you would like further information, please visit our website at www.housegop.ct.gov. Following are some of the highlights.

Voting for Job Creation

Connecticut continues to lag the nation in new jobs and economic growth. I fought for legislation to roll back some of the high taxes that make Connecticut uncompetitive with other states and nations. The property tax on manufacturing equipment will be phased out, the corporate tax surcharge that was reimposed last year will be eliminated and tax credits will encourage companies to hire employees and produce movies, particularly in eastern Connecticut.

New legislation will encourage innovation through faculty recruitment and an entrepreneurial center at UConn, funds for small business incubators, and programs to finance early stage ventures and to match federal research assistance. The state will establish pilot math and science grant programs and student loan repayment for engineering and doctoral students. Several initiatives will promote research in the growing field of nanotechnology, a branch of engineering that deals with the design and manufacture of extremely small electronic circuits and mechanical devices built at the molecular level of matter.

For the Environment

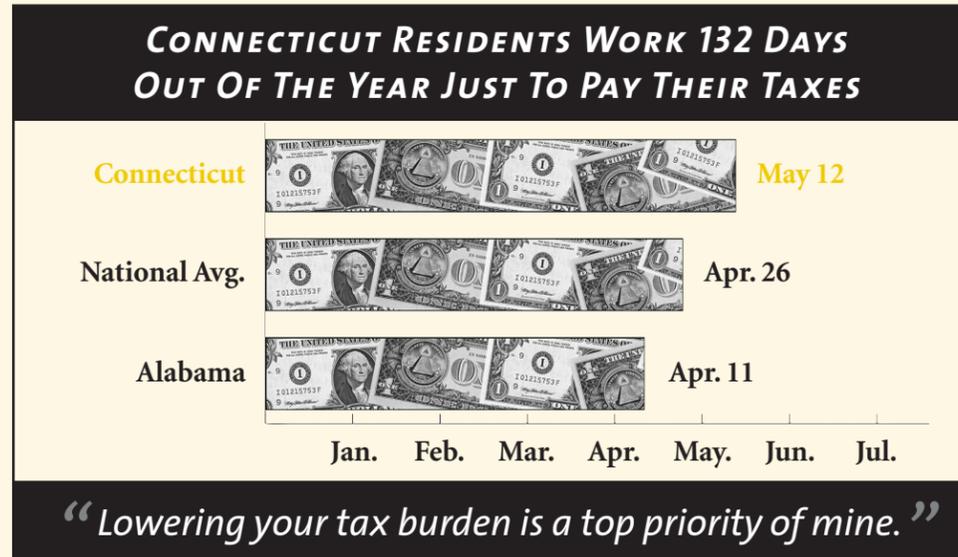
I cosponsored legislation that establishes an office and a pilot program to help towns identify, clean up, and redevelop brownfield sites so that we can remedy environmental hazards and create economic opportunity simultaneously. I also strongly supported and co-sponsored legislation to help prohibit encroachment upon open space lands owned by the state, towns, and non-profit land conservation organizations. New legislation will also require public notification about contaminated sites and private drinking water wells.

For Transportation

With my strong support, the legislature authorized a 10-year, \$2.3-billion transportation package in addition to last year's \$1.3-billion plan that included 342 new cars for the Metro-North commuter rail line. Future authorized projects include expanded commuter rail service to include passenger service from New Haven to Springfield, station improvements and a study of potential service from New London to Worcester. The expansion of passenger service into eastern Connecticut would more fully open up our region for tourism opportunities while reducing traffic on Route 395.

For Property Owners

The legislature created an Ombudsman for Property Rights to help property owners with eminent domain disputes. That is a start, but I supported stronger legislation to restrict governmental ability to take private property for economic development.



For Seniors/Veterans/Healthcare

A new law allows towns and cities to freeze property taxes for homes owned by people age 70 or older. Homemaker-companion agencies must register with the Department of Consumer Protection and employees must undergo background checks. Legislation will protect jobs and finances of National Guard members who are called up for state service such as natural disasters. The legislature updated Connecticut law on end of life decisions, hospital acquired infections and umbilical cord blood banking.

For Children, Education

I continued to support a number of measures to improve the quality of life for our children to include co-sponsoring a bill that provides enhanced coverage under the HUSKY Plan and individual and group health insurance policies for children with cancer. My support of the budget bill meant that four of the communities of the 50th District received extra funding for special education costs, too. Families saving for their children's college education will be pleased to learn that contributions of up to \$10,000 per year for CHET accounts will be tax-deductible for married couples, \$5,000 for individuals.

For Brooklyn and Region 11

I helped to ensure that Brooklyn and Region 11's deadline to form a cooperative school district has been extended to June 2007. If Region 11 and Brooklyn move forward with this joint project, they will receive a special reimbursement bonus



Rep. Mike Alberts greets students from Brooklyn Elementary School during their field trip to the state Capitol in Hartford.



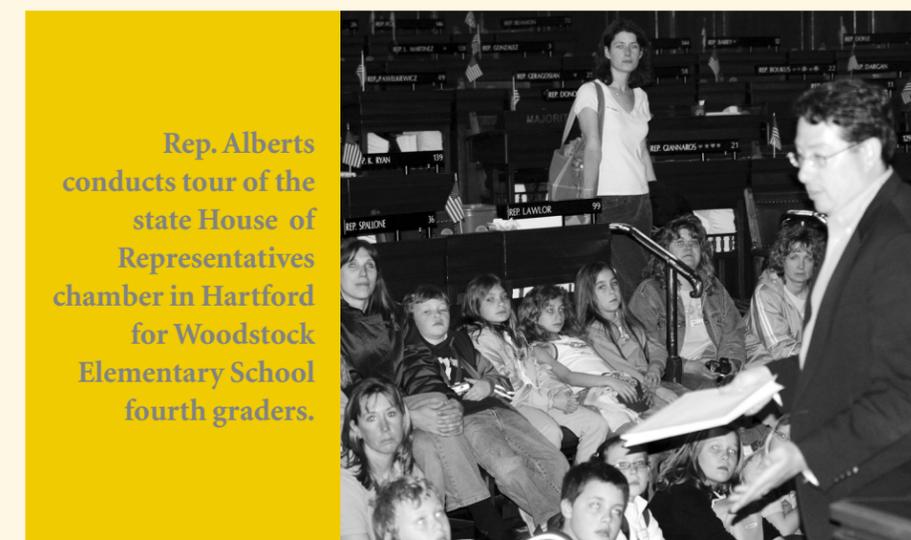
Rep. Alberts speaks on an amendment to legislation being debated in the state House of Representatives.

State Budget

I supported adjustments to the state budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2006. The budget provides \$246 million for the underfunded Teachers' Retirement System, \$86 million to pay off debt from the 2003 fiscal crisis, \$33 million in property tax relief to the towns and \$189 million saved in the state Rainy Day Fund for future economic downturns and other emergencies.

Grants to towns increased by \$116 million and aid for special education students goes up by \$35 million. Taxpayers will also be able to take advantage of a property tax credit of up to \$500 when filing their 2006 state income tax returns, up from \$350.

Unfortunately, the Democratic majority rejected Governor Rell's proposals to eliminate both the annual car tax and the estate tax. The failure to eliminate the estate tax compounds the problems faced by many small business owners who are trying to pass on capital-intensive businesses like family farms to the next generation.



Rep. Alberts conducts tour of the state House of Representatives chamber in Hartford for Woodstock Elementary School fourth graders.

Farmland Preservation

Keeping our farms functioning as profitable businesses is critical to preserving farmland. Toward that end I co-sponsored a bill that expands the types of products that can be sold at farmers markets that participate in the state's WIC program. While I was successful in helping secure state funds to protect the 100-acre Eddy Farm in Woodstock from development, the state still lags behind many others in dedicating proper resources to preserve farmland.